

Damages To Patler Reduced

Sept 10 1969
Arlington Circuit Court Judge Charles S. Russell yesterday cut from \$15,000 to \$1,300 damages awarded to John Patler, convicted killer of American Nazi Party leader George Lincoln Rockwell, in his suit against Robert Lloyd III, a Nazi official.

On Sept. 10, a jury awarded Patler damages after it decided that Lloyd had "persecuted" Patler by swearing out a warrant accusing him of stealing the gun used to kill Rockwell. That charge was never prosecuted.

At yesterday's hearing, Russell denied motions by Lloyd that a new trial be ordered and that the verdict be set aside.

Lloyd's lawyer, John Alvin Croghan, also filed a supplemental motion for a new trial Thursday, claiming that "the inclusion of two Negroes on the jury . . . was repugnant to the federal constitution."

He argued that the 14th Amendment, which established the citizenship of Negroes, never had been ratified by three-quarter of the states. His original motion argued that the presence of the two Negroes made the jury "biased and prejudiced."

Yesterday's decision included \$1,000 punitive damages and \$300 compensatory damages. Patler's lawyer, Thomas Joseph Harrigan, has 10 days to appeal.

"We're interested in the fact the court upheld the decision of the jury and we're more interested in the principle of the thing than the monetary damages involved," Harrigan told a reporter after the hearing.